

# HAMATEURCHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Club -- since 1917

February, 2000 Vol. 08 No. 02

## club officers

President	529-5583
Dave DeFebo	WB9BWP
1st V. Pres.	475-6404
Matt Planning	KB9PRC
2nd V. P.	KB9LCQ@arrl.net
Brian White	KB9LCQ
Secretary 1	(262) 968-2724
Jim Tromblay	WB9LNU
Treasurer	796-0969
Ken Eggert	W9MOT

### Board of Directors

Barbara Brewer (99-01)	KB9TIV 771-0640
Pancho Doneis (99-01)	KA9OFA 344-4694
Al Drobac (99-01)	AA9XH 302-1343
Rich McNew (98-00)	WB9PTC 453-6781
Kate Kedney (98-00)	KA9MWT (262) 896-9676
Tom Fusard (98-00)	KF9PU 321-5845

HamateurChatter  
Editor

Pancho Doneis (99-01)	KA9OFA 344-4694
-----------------------	--------------------

Mailings

Barbara Brewer (99-01)	KB9TIV 771-0640
------------------------	--------------------

John Merkl	WB9PSE 259-9091
------------	--------------------

## From the President's Desk

Dave DeFebo - WB9BWP



Dave DeFebo

**D**ue to the untimely passing of Jerry Melotik KC9EV, there was a vacant director spot on the board. I am pleased to announce that for some reason Kate Kedney KA9MWT has offered to fill the position until the next election. Kate has been an officer and director before (as well as officer for other clubs) and yet she still decided she wanted to do it again. Welcome and thanks to Kate.

**T**he last board meeting was quite busy discussing VEC, repeater, and some PR. You will soon be seeing a survey about the club repeater. We ask you to honestly answer it so we know how the membership would like to proceed. We have some opportuni-

ties at repeater sites, but putting the repeater at a real site requires real money and additional volunteers. It also requires real use. I know the coverage is not the best, but surely during your travels around town you should be able to access it. Give a call, maybe someone might actually be out there. If nothing else, remember the Friday night nets. The survey addresses nets too. This is your club and this is your repeater. What do you want to do?

**T**he January meeting was what I called "Audience Participation Nite". Instead of just passing around the microphone and saying "Hi", I

continued on page 2

## Milwaukee Area Nets

DAY	TIME	MHZ	ACTIVITY
Daily	6-8 AM	14.290	Wisconsin/Florida Net (SSB)
Daily	6:30 PM	3.645	Wis. Slow Speed CW Traffic Net
MON-FRI	8:30 AM	3.965	After Breakfast Club (SSB)
MON	8:00 PM	146.445	Emergency Net
MON	9:00 PM	146.670	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)
MON	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. General Net
TUE	9:00 AM	50.160	6 Mtr. 2nd shifter's Net
TUE	8:00 PM	144.250	Badger Contesters (SSB)
TUE	8:00 PM	7.035	A.F.A.R. Net (CW)
WED	8:00 PM	28.365	10-10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)

DAY	TIME	MHZ	ACTIVITY
THU	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. General Interest Net
THU	9:00 PM	146.910	Computer Net
FRI	8:45 PM	28.490	MRAC W9RH 10 meter Station Net (SSB)
FRI	9:15 PM	147.045 <sup>+</sup>	W9RH 2 mtr. FM net after the 10 mtr. net
SAT	9:00 PM	146.910	Saturday Nite Fun net
SUN	8:30 AM	3.985	QCWA (Chptr. 55) (SSB)
SUN	10:00 AM	443.800 <sup>+</sup>	FM-38 Link to 146.88 Baraboo SWAP Net
SUN	8:00 PM	28.365	10-10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)
SUN	8:00 PM	146.910	Information Net
SUN	9:00 PM	146.910	Swap Net

The 2 meter FM frequencies are -600 khz offset FM repeaters. FM38 is +5 Mhz offset, tone 114.8. The 10 meter SSB frequencies are upper sideband (USB). If there are additions, changes, or corrections to this list, please contact: Pancho - KA9OFA att 344-4694 or call::

1-(262)-797-MRAC or (797-6722).

**HAMATEURCHATTER** is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club) which is a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct. MRAC Membership dues are \$15.<sup>00</sup> per year and run on a calendar year starting with January 1.

Our Club/VEC Phone no. is (262) 797-MRAC.

Correspondence may be addressed to:

**M. R. A. C.**

Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club  
P.O. Box 25707  
Milwaukee, WI 53225

Our meetings are normally at 7:30 PM.  
the last Thursday of the month excepting December  
and are held at:  
**Redemption Lutheran Church**  
Fellowship Hall  
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.  
(Capitol Dr. & Mayfair Rd.)  
Milwaukee, WI

## Presidents Desk continued from page 1

asked for a brief radio biography, future radio plans, how I spent my summer vacation, whatever. Unfortunately, we could not get completely around the room (but if you didn't get a turn, we haven't forgotten, you will get a chance to tell us about yourself and we know who you are) but by about 9:10 PM we were just over half way around. From comments I received so far, it went over well.

I nterested in getting into a hamfest before the general public but you don't have anything to sell yourself? How about being responsible for getting a club table staffed for the opening of the fest? What do you have to do? Just find the table, and set out flyers and 'Chatters and a sign and be around the table for a while after the fest opens. If you have 1 or 2 items you would like to sell, put those on the table too. Others will be by to take over as the morning goes on. Why do we have a table at a hamfest? We need to tell people, especially new people, who we are. For being in business longer than any other club around here we do a really bad job of telling people who we are. We are trying to change that. Let me know if you are interested in opening up the club table. We need someone for SEWFARS in March, Superfest in April and Ozaukee in May. By the way, after only being back at 2 hamfests so far, we

have collected some dues and gotten a few new members. It seems to be worth the effort.

D ues are due by the end of the month. If we are doing a good job, please pay your dues on time. We will have a new roster soon and you will then be in it. No dues, no roster and no more 'Chatters. If you are a life member, dues are not required, but we would appreciate whatever contribution you could make. No contribution, and we unfortunately can not send any newsletters until next year. Remember the budget discussed a couple of months back? The newsletter uses 62% of our total income. And yes, we are looking into ways to remedy that.

T he club patches are in. If you ordered some be sure to contact Ken Eggert to pick them up. We had to only go with the larger size, so if you ordered any smaller ones, we will need an extra dollar for each larger one. If you did not order any, check with Ken he may have some extras. If we need to order more, the quantity will probably be smaller, so the price will probably be higher.

S till looking for some people to make up a Christmas party committee. If you want the party to continue (and would like some control over the arrangements), why not volunteer? We also would like someone to be Field Day chairperson. Jim Tromblay has most of

the equipment so there is not really much for that person to do. Volunteer.

S peaking of volunteering, do you think the current officers are doing a good job? Do you get tired of reading my ranting? Maybe you would like to run for office? Elections are coming up in May, with nominations due in by the end of the April meeting. We for sure need a new treasurer. All total we will be electing 8 people (with 3 directors carrying over for another year). Here's your chance to impress your friends, run for office.

Till next time 73,

*David B. Melotik*

**HAMATEURCHATTER**



## New Director

I would like to announce that Kate Kedney KA9MWThad a bout of confusion and volunteered to fill the open director position created by the passing of Jerry Melotik. She has been here before and yet decided to try it again. Welcome and thanks to Kate.

Dave - WB9BWP

# MRAC Board Meeting 1/24/2000

The meeting was called to order at 6:55 at Tom's QTH, KF9PU.

Previous meeting minutes were read and approved as written. Tom, KF9PU asked that the \$50.00 per month rental fee and the estimated cost to install the antenna's on the proposed new repeater site tower of \$1000.00 be added to the November minutes. The secretary complied.

Treasurers report -- Total liquid assets with CD equals \$ 7817.31. Ken, W9MOT also says that most members have been paying their dues on time this year. A red mark on your 'Chatter indicates that you are not current. February will be the last, 'Chatter for those who have not paid.

Thanks were given to Tom for the use of his new QTH for the board meeting. And a discussion followed on the next board meeting site and future board meetings for the year 2000.

Tom's VEC report. And also input from John, KF9XL our testing VEC. The price for testing this year has been set at \$6.65. Tom was asked by the NCVEC if we would like to comment on the new CW test format that will come out after April 15th. The board suggested that the format stay the same as it has been in the past. AES is building a separate area for us to do our testing since they rented out the area that we have been using these last several years. MRAC will be testing on April 8th during AES Superfest.

Ken reported that the Christmas party made a little money for the first time in many years. The board was not looking for a profit, just to break even. Dave wants this years party committee to handle all the arrangements so the board does not have to occupy itself with the details of the party. The board realizes that a location will have to be reserved now or we will not find a place.

Dave discussed that he would like to try a new meeting format where

the members talk directly to one another and not only listen to the board members up front. The January meeting will be our first try. He also suggested that we come up with a format to conduct our auctions. And we want to give the members a chance to auction their stuff for themselves once a year.

Dave also has to find a replacement for Ken who is resigning from his temporary duty of filling in as treasurer since no-one was elected to the post at the last election. We also discussed if we should replace Jerry KC9EV who died or wait until the next election in May. Dave will ask if anyone is interested in either post at the next club meeting.

Ken reports that the final expense on the club patches was quite high. We just about broke even. A total of 100 patches were ordered. We have about 40 left.

The club's W9RH license will expire in a month. WB9LNU will be the new trustee of the license. He has an extra class license and this allows the club to use all amateur privileges during an event.

Dave asked if we thought we should still have a club table at various swapfest etc: We decided to have a new banner made and make an effort to find people to man the table and hand out club literature.

Pancho asked for all the club pictures in the history files so he can attempt to organize them and maybe identify some of the old timers on them.

New member ID badges will be given out at the February club meeting. You must come to a meeting to get one. A badge will not be printed for you if you have not paid your dues.

A discussion on club policy for future funerals, donations, sick list, get well cards etc: No decision on a new format or continue as we have been.

New repeater site. Is it worth it?

The \$1000 initial cost to put the antennas up etc: Who is going to be the technical crew? Do we need additional new hardware? Who will be the control operators? All these questions and to date no volunteers to do any of this. Plus very few members even try to get on the friday night nets. Big problem with no volunteers. Friday nets need topics and topic leaders.

The meeting adjourned at 9:34. Thanks again to Tom for the use of your QTH and the goodies.

Respectfully submitted,



Jim - WB9LNU  
Secretary

## Wanted

WANTED: New or used Nixie Tubes. Dead or alive. I am doing some home decoration and would like to accumulate a variety of different Nixie tube sizes, types and displays (numeric, pointer-dots, alpha characters, or ??).

Will also adopt complete or incomplete equipment which uses Nixies- Hey, this is a GREAT opportunity to unload some real heavy metal you've been wondering how to dispose of!!

Let's talk! Matt Planning, KB9PRC. 414 475 6404

# NIXIE TUBES

# MRAC Club Meeting 1/27/00

MRAC Club Meeting 1/27/  
2000

The meeting was called to order at 7:30.

Previous meeting minutes were read by Jim, WB9LNU and approved as written.

Treasures report-- Total \$ 7868.90 including the CD.

Ken, W9MOT also resigned as Treasurer. Dave will be looking for a replacement. He may appoint someone until the next elections. Any volunteers?? Dave thanked Ken for all his efforts these past years.

Dave, WB9BWP, our President, says that we made a few dollars on this years Christmas party and that we all had fun. The food was good and also the company. Vern, W9RYA was thanked for his efforts to organize a party and arrange for the food. Also thanks to Matt, KB9PRC for getting the flowers and to Ken for his help on organizing the badges and the party details.

Next year Dave hopes the party committee will handle all the details so the board does not have to be so involved.

The club patches are in. Anyone interested, see Ken, W9MOT.

Jerry KC9EV passed away. We will take a volunteer replacement until the elections. Anyone interested? A permanent replacement will be elected at the May meeting.

The board is considering bringing back the old time MRAC auction at the May meeting. Any volunteers to help??

We need a ARRL Field Day Chairman for this year. Besides Jim, WB9LNU whom we can always count on. Volunteer?????

If you have E-Mail , the Chatter may be available soon electronically. It will save some cost on postage.

Dave explained the basics of the new FCC rules changes and new license classes. Tom, KF9PU explained the new paperwork procedures. John, KF9XL explained the new test procedures.

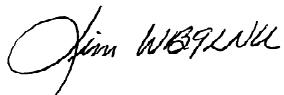
Exact details on license changes can be found in QST or CQ magazine or on the FCC WEB site.

Warren, K9IZV says we have 41 in attendance at the meeting.

The business meeting adjourned at 8:12.

A member participation night followed. We all sat in a circle so we could see one another. Each member told the group how they got started on ham radio , what they do for a living and some very interesting stories of things they have done in their lifetime. All found this concept of getting to know each other very interesting. With 41 members present we only got half way through and had to call the meeting do to time restraints. We expect to continue at the February meeting. Dave received some very nice comments on his idea to get everyone together like this.

Respectfully submitted,



Jim WB9LNU  
Secretary

## Jan. VE Testing

VE testing was held on Jan 29, 2000. There were 41 candidates, and 9 were successful in getting their first licenses or in upgrading. 48 elements were passed, and 13 were failed.

11 VE's worked very hard at the session. They included:

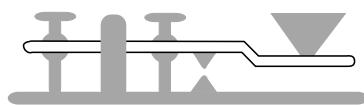
Barbara Brewer KB9TIV  
Mark Bye KB9LDX  
Ken Caruso KS4NX  
Bob Immekus W9CYI  
Kate Kedney KA9MWT  
Len Kelter K9LJ  
John Kraak KF9XL  
Will Lorenz W9ZOL  
Norm McNew KB9QL  
Joe Mettry AA9DO

Jerry Thompson WA9SFH

The next MRAC-VEC exam session will be Sat Feb 26, 2000 at AES.



John (KF9XL)



Our (MRAC) Logo/Patch

Some logo patches are still available. See Ken Eggert - W9MOT, our outgoing Financial Secretary.

# What Restructuring Means to You

Starting April 15, 2000, only three classes of licenses (TECHNICIAN, GENERAL, AND AMATEUR EXTRA) will be issued by the FCC. The code speed requirement for all will be 5 wpm.

This change applies only to upgrades and new licensees. The FCC will honor the current five classes of license indefinitely. Amateurs may continue using their current privileges as long as they renew their licenses.

Under the new rules, amateurs holding Technician Plus and Advanced class licenses may apply for an upgrade to the next license class with no additional code exam. (A written exam will be required.) As a courtesy to amateurs who wish to maintain their existing license class, neither the VECs nor the FCC will automatically upgrade licenses.

To UPGRADE, please bring copies of your license or CSCE to a test session on or after April 15. Com-

plete a Form 605 and take any necessary written element.

TECHNICIAN CLASS operators who were licensed prior to March 21, 1987, may upgrade to General class with no further testing. (No-code Technicians will need to take the 5 wpm code test and the appropriate element(s) to upgrade their licenses.) Bring a copy of your original license or other documentation showing the date of issue.

Those wishing to upgrade to General or higher have three choices:

1) Take the necessary written and code elements prior to April 15. If you pass, you will be certified as General, Advanced, or Extra, and may operate on those bands within a few days. Those holding General or Advanced class licenses on April 15 may upgrade to Extra by passing the Extra class written exam. A fee will be assessed for this exam and upgrade.

2) Take only the General and/or

Extra class written exam now. If you pass, you will receive a CSCE which you will use to apply for an upgrade on or after April 15. Assuming you are certified at 5 wpm, no further testing will be required. Present your CSCE and a copy of your license. Fees will be assessed during each visit.

3) Wait until April 15 to take the written exam(s) and 5 wpm code test if needed. With one visit and fee you can upgrade to the next class of license.

License restructuring promises to open the doors to many more people who were unable to realize their full potential as amateur radio operators. This will help our "community" immensely.

Sincerely,



Tom Fuszard - KF9PU

## 'Twas the Day after Christmas

From: "Willard Fischer N0DVG"

'Twas the day after Christmas, and all through the house  
Nothing would fit me, not even a blouse.  
The cookies I'd nibbled, the eggnog I'd taste  
At the holiday parties had gone to my waist.  
When I got on the scales there arose such a number!  
When I walked to the store (less a walk than a lumber).  
I'd remember the marvelous meals I'd prepared;  
The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared,  
The wine and the rum balls, the bread and the cheese.  
And the way I'd never said, "No thank you, please."  
As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt.  
And prepared once again to do battle with dirt—  
I said to myself, as only I can

"You can't spend a winter disguised as a man!"  
So—away with the last of the sour cream dip,  
Get rid of the fruit cake, every cracker and chip  
Every last bit of food that I like must be banished.  
"Till all the additional ounces have vanished.  
I won't have a cookie—not even a lick.  
I'll want only to chew on a long celery stick.  
I won't have hot biscuits, or corn bread, or pie,  
I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry.  
I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore—  
But isn't that what January is for?  
Unable to giggle, no longer a riot.  
Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet!



# Buy Another Premier Communications PMC-100 Desktop Microphone?

In mid-December 1999, I purchased a Premier Communications Inc., PRYME PMC-100 desktop microphone \$79.95 from the local amateur radio dealer.

The PMC-100 is advertised to work with multiple transceivers, the ham need only purchase the correct cable to complete the connection to the transceiver. Since I intended to use this desktop microphone on 2 different transceivers from different manufacturers I also purchased the required cables. The ability to work with multiple transceivers was the major reason I purchased the PMC-100. The catalog indicates there are six cables available, 8-pin ADI/ICOM, 8-pin Alinco/Kenwood, 8-pin Yaesu, RJ-45 ADI/ICOM, RJ-45 Alinco/Kenwood, and RJ-45 Yaesu each cable is \$14.95.

Upon opening the box I immediately thought that packing could have provided better protection. The PMC-100 was inside of a cellophane type bag, inside the cardboard box. There was no additional form of protection.

The cables themselves are not marked as to which transceiver they are intended to work with. A visual inspection of the cables does indicate that they are indeed wired differently.

The instructions were of the typical broken English translations found in first generation amateur transceiver gear. Meaning of course, that some instructions may have to be read a couple of times to comprehend. Printed on both sides of a single 8.5 by 11 sheet of paper, the illustrations are clear and precise as are as the markings on the PMC-100. Two small criticisms, first referencing a UM3 battery, rather than the more familiar usage AA, and second the misspelling of Kenwood as Keenwood on both the instructions and the PMC-100.

The PMC-100 has two RJ-45 type plugs on the back of the base to accommodate the different cables required for the different transceivers. The plugs are marked Yaesu/Keenwood and Icom.

There are five small round buttons for controlling the transceiver functions VFO, MR, PF, CALL and Power. Two medium sized buttons for UP/DOWN for frequency or memory locations,. And most importantly two large buttons for PTT and LOCK functions. The microphone is of course at the end of a gooseneck.

The PMC-100 is a handsome, good-looking unit, I have no complaints, only kudos on the styling. However, I did not buy the microphone to sit and stare at, it is meant to be used.

Accessing the battery compartment I noticed that the battery its cover does not release itself from the base as cleanly as I would have liked. There is no solid feel to the latching mechanism whether removing or installing the cover. I installed (2) brand new out of the package batteries into the battery compartment cover. The cover is connected to the base via a 9 volt-type battery, clip that may cause a problem if the cover is ever lost.

I set the switches for Kenwood, unpacked the Kenwood cable and plugged it into the Kenwood jack on the back of the base. I then removed the hand microphone from the Kenwood transceiver and connected the PMC-100 to the transceiver. Per the instructions I was to press the power switch and the red L.E.D. would start to flash. Pressing the power switch the L.E.D. started to flash for about 5 seconds then subsided. The instructions lead me to believe the L.E.D. would continue to flash. I then applied power to the transceiver listened and began a test. I did not know it at the time, but the PMC-100 had failed.

The PTT required more force than I assumed would be required to key the transceiver. My initial test was with a ham that I have had ISO's within the past. This provided me the opportunity to test the "Out of the Box" functionality with someone familiar with my operating habits, voice and mannerisms.

The audio readability report, I was more "bassy" than normal.

The LOCK button failed to lock the transmitter in transmit mode, this was of course identified as a failure and I knew the PMC-100 was going back to the dealer. I then proceeded to test the other buttons UP, Down, VFO, MR, PF, and CALL they all worked as expected, mirroring the operation of the original hand mike for the Kenwood. After playing with the buttons I found myself on a simplex frequency that I have programmed into the transceiver.

About half an hour after testing and doing some work around the shack I heard my scanning receiver pickup a dead carrier and the cooling fan on the

Kenwood started. I thought, "What the heck is going on here". I watched the Kenwood and the transceiver transmitted again for less than a second. I looked at the PMC-100 to see if I had bumped or knocked some object onto the PTT or LOCK buttons when L.E.D. flashed and the transceiver transmitted again, all of this in a time frame of about 10 seconds. There was no object on top the PTT or LOCK buttons no reason for the Kenwood to PMC-100 to key the Kenwood. I ID'd the transmissions and removed power from the Kenwood. I continued to observe the PMC-100 and the L.E.D. flashed every couple of seconds. Pressing the PMC-100 power button did not seem to affect the unit nor did the L.E.D. as it did when I first applied power. I then spent another 10-15 minutes troubleshooting to confirm my suspicions that appeared to be an out of the box failure.

The following day, I returned the PMC-100 to the dealer, buy my desire for a desktop microphone was greater than want of a refund. The salesman I purchased the PMC-100 from the day before brought a different unit from the stockroom and was helpful as we tested the power, PTT, and LOCK buttons at the counter. Pressing the power button the L.E.D. started to flash and continued to flash until the PTT or LOCK button was pressed when it would illuminate in steady state. Releasing the PTT or LOCK the L.E.D. would assume its now familiar flashing pattern. Repeating the test on the returned unit clearly indicated a failed unit.

Later that night when I connected the "new" PMC-100 to the Kenwood there were no uncontrolled transmissions. In use for the next few days no major problems were detected, but there are annoyances. I waited too long to attach the Yaesu, to my dismay, the Yaesu cable does not fit the radio!! There is no schematic supplied with the PMC-100. Bottom line, does it have decades of service built into it? Probably not. Is it worth the purchase price? I guess so since I did not return the unit (but that might have to do with a restocking fee). Would I buy another? - - No.

73,



Brian White - KB9LCQ

# FIRST WIRELESS IN ALASKA

Army forts had been established to protect gold miners in the 1900's during the "gold rush." Thus, a reliable communication system to protect the population was deemed necessary. Later, this was called the "Western Alaska Military Telegraph System", which employed many radio amateurs who, as civilians, became high speed operators who were called WOMCATS.

It was the first such system on the West Coast. The rushes started in 1898-towns mushroomed proving the need for vastly improved communication. Congress gave the Signal Corps funds to improve communications throughout the territory, and gave them the responsibility for construction of a cable line to the interior. This proved to be very difficult as the poles had to be set in permanently-frozen ground. This was the prime factor which prompted the Signal Corps seeking to establish wireless circuits.

In 1903, the army ran wire to St. Michaels, Alaska, but needed to get cable to Nome. Their choice was to lay wire (on poles), around Norton Sound, or to install cable across the sound, where it would probably be taken out by the ice each spring. This inspired the wireless link between St. Michaels and Nome. When finished, the system comprised 107 miles by wireless, connecting to 3,883 miles of cable to Seattle.

The Chief Signal Officer reported the radio link establishment to be the first publically-operated network in America. Improvements created reliable communications between harbors which had been planned. Although he knew that rapid technical advances were in the making by civilian engineers, he decided to follow his previous 1899 plans, which would include experimental access to sites, then not furnished communication.

The Chief Signal Officer's office collected all published data on wireless equipment, and purchased equipment

from several sources to establish the first primary circuits. Majors Samuel Reber, George Squier, and Edgar Russell were assigned to this work. (Interestingly, when I was at Ft. Monmouth in 1938, the final touches were being put into the new Squier Laboratory).

Capt. Wildman was called from the Alaskan system to supervise experimental work in the perfection of the permanent plant, and to select equipment to operate reliably over the 100+ mile path. The chosen operating field between Fort Schuyler, Fort Wright, Fisher Island, and New York was partially over a 20 mile landpath. Equipment for this project was purchased from many suppliers in England, Ger-

range of frequencies.

6. Elimination of circuit disturbances due to atmospherics.
7. Construction of all devices, so that part replacement could take place without elaborate machinery, by intelligent unskilled labor.
8. Replacement of all adjustments which require a knowledge of mathematics, or skilled manipulation, by lettered dials, and/or marked switch positions.

Capt. Wildman took over equipment redesign of systems such that the end product could be successfully operated by persons of lower intelligence, and its vulnerability to high level atmospherics markedly reduced. Test messages were sent daily in great numbers over the 97 mile path, for five weeks without apparent deterioration of equipment. The experiments furnished a large amount of valuable data, on all of the points previously tabulated. Wildman's criteria were not completely met, but the equipment was ready for field test.

With the exception of the de Forest receiver, the Signal Corps had no patentable devices, except for those invented and/or designed by Signal Corps personnel.

Capt. Wildman was ready for installation under Alaskan field conditions. Upon completion of this task, he wrote the final report to the Chief Signal Officer in 1903. However, in 1901, a contract with Fessenden was drawn up to establish wireless communication from Nome, across Norton Sound to St. Michael, in the practical importance of signal reliability of contacts at that time, without waiting for the results of Wildman's project. The contractors failed to make the installation, and the contract was cancelled.



Fred Linn - W9NZF

many, and the US. Although wireless telegraphy over great distances was an established fact, none of the many systems tested were 100% satisfactory for Army use. Capt. Wildman produced a list of changes necessary to make the available equipment satisfactory for Army field use:

1. Elimination of the need for electrical grounds.
2. Reduction of necessary antenna heights.
3. Increasing system portability, with increased reliability under all climatic conditions.
4. Avoiding exposed high-voltage points to protect operating personnel from lethal shocks.
5. Producing receivers which, by adjustment, could receive a wide

*Fred*

Fred Linn - W9NZF



## CLUB MEETINGS

### Milwaukee Radio Amateur's Club

Last Thursday of the month 7:30 p.m.  
Redemption Lutheran Church  
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.  
Milwaukee, WI

### Ozaukee Radio Club

Second Wed. of each month  
7:30 p.m.  
Grafton Multipurpose Senior Center  
Grafton, WI

## CLUB MEETINGS continued

### Menomonee Falls Amateur Club

Last Wed of the month  
Doors open @ 7:00 p.m. Mtg. @ 7:30 p.m.  
Bank One Bldg. @  
Pilgrim Rd. and Mequon Rd.  
Germantown, WI

### Miller Valley Radio Amateur Club

Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m.  
at 703 N. 39th St.,  
just north of (and almost under)  
the Wis. Ave. viaduct.  
For info contact: Art - WA9AWJ  
(found daily on the 146.91 repeater).

### South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club

First Wednesday of each month  
American Legion Post 434  
9327 S. Sheppard Ave.  
Oak Creek, WI  
Auction at March & October mtgs.

### West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Meets the second Tuesday of each month  
at 8:00 p.m.  
At St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
7929 W. Lincoln Ave.  
West Allis, WI

## HAM CLUB ACTIVITIES

### CQ Third Tuesday

11:00 a.m.

Old Country Buffet

164<sup>th</sup> and Bluemound

### Y'all come(!) to the MRAC HAM BREAKFAST

every Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. at  
Maxim's Restaurant  
18025 W. Capitol Dr. (a bit west of Calhoun).  
Prices are reasonable, the food good, and the  
company excellent.

### First Friday Fish Fry

Serb Hall at 51st and Oklahoma Ave. Call:  
Warren - K9IZV on the 146.91 - offset for  
reservations by noon on that FRI.

### W9RH-10 & 2 METER NETS

W9RH Ten Meter Net 8:45 PM at 28.490  
MHz. SSB Friday evenings at 9:15 2 meter FM  
repeater at 147.045 + offset.  
. We'd like to meet you there..

**Code Practice with DickMcNew - WB9PTC @ 6:00-7:00 PM and 8:00-9:00 on Mondays and Wednesdays.**  
The frequency is 146.425 MHz.



\* indicates VE testing

**SEWFARS SwapFest**  
**SUN. MAR. 12, 2000**  
Waukesha Co. Exppo Cntr.  
Waukesha, WI  
T/I on 146.820- PL 127.3

**MICHIGAN CROSSROADS HAMFEST \***  
**SAT. - MAR.18, 2000**  
Marshall High School  
Marshall, MI  
146.66 or 16.52 simp

**Year 2000**  
**Hamfest/Computer Fair**  
**SUN. - MAR. 19, 2000**  
Lucas Co. Recreation Center  
Maumee, Ohio  
T/I on 147.27+ or 442.85+

**NSRCfest \***  
**SUN. MAR. 26, 2000**  
Lake Co Fairgrounds  
Grayslake, IL  
T/I on 147.345+.600 or 146.52 simp

**AES SuperFest \***  
**FRI, SAT. - APRIL 7& 8, 2000**  
AES  
Milwaukee,WI

**Madison SwapFest**  
**SUN. - APR. 9, 2000**  
Mandt Community Center  
Stoughton Junior Fairgrounds  
Stoughton, WI  
T/I on 147.15

**Ozaukee Radio Club SwapFest \***  
**MAY 6, 2000**  
Circle "B" Recreation Center  
Cedarburg, WI,  
T/I on 146.37/97 rpter or 146.52 simp.

**Lakeshore Hamfest \***  
**SAT. - MAY 13, 2000**  
Manitowoc Co. Expo  
Manitowoc, WI  
T/I 146.61 MHz

**Princeton HamFest**  
and Computer Show  
**Sun. - Jun. 4, 2000**  
Bureau Co. Fairgrounds  
Princeton, IL  
T/I on 146.955- PL 103.5

**Eau Claire HamFest \***  
**SAT. - JUN. 10, 2000**  
Eau Claire Co. Exposition Ctr.  
Eau Claire, WI

**Six Meter Club of Chicago, Inc.**  
**43rd Hamfest \***  
**SUN. - JUN. 11, 2000**  
DuPage Co. Fairgrounds  
Wheaton, IL

**SMARK SwapFest '00**  
Sat. - July 8, 2000  
American Legion Post 434  
Oak Creek, WI  
T/I on 146.52 simp

# BIRTHDAYS

## March Birthdays

Birthdate

Harold G.(Hal) Newton - KB9OZN ...	3/6
David S. Go - KG9GL -----	3/7
Willard S. Lorenz - W9ZOL .....	3/10
KC9WW - Fred B. Mikolajewski .....	3/13
Ed Seruga - KE9JJ -----	3/13
Jack C. Krause - W9JK .....	3/19

73,



Brian - KB9LCQ

# *Happy Birthday !!*

## Credits

Thanks to our news contributors this month:

KB9BWP	WB9LNU	LB9PRC
N0DVG	W9NZF	KF9PU
KB9LCQ		KF9XL

We would also like to thank Alfred Huwald, and Myron Hendricks for taking care of the refreshments at our meetings.

Thanks to Rita Doneis, Kristi Potochnik and Armin Doneis, III for their help in the proofreading dept.

Our thanks go to John Merkl and Barbara Brewer for making sure that the 'Chatter gets printed, stamped, and mailed.

Also our thanks goes to Tom Scherlowsky and Jacquie Horwitz for handling the Raffle at the meetings.

*Thank you very much!*

## Editor's Notes

Hi, again,

- Officers and 3 Directors to be Elected in a few months.
- Please contact Ken Eggert to update your dues for this year.
- Ken has the new embroidered logo patches, now! We need your orders. Please contact Ken Eggert - W9MOT
- Join us in our Friday night (10 and 2 meter) nets. (No experience is needed -- only a Ham license.
- Some of us are still meeting for breakfast at Maxim's at about 182<sup>nd</sup> St. and Capitol Dr. for breakfast on Saturday morning at about 8:00 AM. We'd like to see you there.

Hope to see you at the meeting on Thurs. - Feb. 24, 2000.

73,



Pancho - KA9OFA  
Editor



# MRAC

This Month's meeting:

**Thu. - February 24, 2000 (Y2K)**

**7:30 PM**

**Program: Getting (Re)Acquainted-(part dieu)**

**Location: Redemption Lutheran Church  
Fellowship Hall  
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.  
(Use the south entrance)**

**HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**

**Please! Don't call the Church  
for information!!!**

**Board meeting: Wed. -February 23, 2000  
NOT our regular night.**

**Next meeting: February 24, 2000**

**••••• HamateurChatter  
Deadline is  
March 1, 2000**

## Table of Contents

Area Nets .....	1
Birthdays .....	9
Board Meeting 01/24/00 .....	3
Club Meeting 01/27/00 .....	4
Club Officers .....	1
CLUB Meetings .....	8
Club Mentioned in QST .....	4
Credits .....	9
Editor's Notes .....	9
Events (upcoming) .....	8
FirstWireless in Alaska .....	7
From the President's Desk .....	1
Ham Club Activities .....	8
Jan. VE Testing .....	4
Milwaukee Area Nets .....	8
New Patches .....	4
PMC-100 Desktop Microphone? .....	6
New Director .....	2
VEC News .....	8
Wanted .....	3
What restructuringmeans to you .....	5

**Our Phone number  
(262) 797-MRAC  
(797-6722)**

**New Area Code (262)  
starting in September**

Milwaukee, WI 53225

P.O. Box 25707  
Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club

**M.R.A.C.**

Phone (262) 797-MRAC -- Use our Club Repeater - W9RH 147.045+ offset

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - since 1917

# HAMATEUR

February, 2000 Vol. 08 No. 02

FROM SPARK TO SPACE